(b) if so, details of program of the Government and steps taken to control, protect life and property and create awareness among the people against radiation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), the Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy has not started mining of Uranium from its proposed project in Meghalaya.

(b) Not Applicable. However, it is intimated that the operations of UCIL are under strict surveillance of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, State Pollution Control Board and Directorate General of Mines Safety. To generate awareness among the people and address their concerns, awareness programmes have been organized in the region.

Inspection of sites of nuclear plants

751. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has granted permission for inspection of the proposed sites of nuclear plants to super nuclear powers;

(b) if so, the number of sites so far inspected; and

(c) the details of such sites inspected and approved or disapproved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The proposed sites for setting up nuclear power plants based on foreign co-operation do not need international inspection and approval.

Nuclear energy from sea-sand

†752. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any possibility of the generation of atomic energy from the material found in the sea-sand of 6,000 acre of coastal land near Shree Jagannathpuri which is being allocated by the State Government of Orissa to 'Shree Viswavidayala' managed by a trading company named 'Vedanta'; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In Orissa, Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) has identified 1.82 million tonnes of Thorium bearing monazite resources. Thorium is a fertile element and can be converted to fissile element to produce Atomic Energy in the 3rd stage of Nuclear Power Programme of India.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.